

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /059 W

----- 105009

R 110815Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ADOPTS 18-POINT  
POLITICAL PROGRAM

REFS: A) FBIS OKINAWA 021649Z FEB 75

B) FBIS BANGKOK 021144Z FEB 75

C) STATE 024909

D) VIENTIANE 0187

E) VIENTIANE 4435, JUNE 4, 1974

1. COMMUNIST BROADCASTS (REFS A AND B) NOTED THAT 18-POINT  
POLITICAL PROGRAM WAS "OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED" JANUARY 28  
AND CITED FACT THAT PROGRAM WAS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY  
PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG.

2. KAYSONE BILAVARN, CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS AT  
THE PRESIDENCE DU CONSEIL, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT SOUVANNA  
AND SOUPHANOUVONG APPROVED TEXT OF 18 POINTS ON DECEMBER  
28, AND THAT TEXT WAS OFFICIALLY RELEASED (RENDU PUBLIC)  
ON JANUARY 28 AFTSO BEING APPROVED BY PGNU CABINET ON  
JANUARY 2. (KAYSONE TOOK ISSUE, HOWEVER, WITH PATHET LAO  
AND CHINESE MEDIA STATEMENTS THAT 18 POINTS HAD BEEN  
FORMALLY "PROMULGATED," NOTING THAT 18 POINTS CONSTITUTE  
A "POLITICAL PROGRAM" AND "NOT A LAW" AND THEREFORE ARE  
NOT SUBJECT TO "PROMULGATION.")

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3. FULL TEXT, IN LAO, WAS CARRIED BY OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE ON FEBRUARY 5. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG SAID THAT GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICIZE THE 18 POINTS, STARTING WITH BRIEFINGS FOR UPPER-ECHELON STAFF MEMBERS OF MINISTRIES IN VIENTIANE BY MEMBERS OF JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL. AN OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TOLD EMBOFF THAT MINISTRY IS PRINTING THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF THE 18 POINTS FOR DISTRIBUTION "TO THE POPULATION."

4. DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT IN OBSERVING (REF C) THAT FINAL VERSION CONTAINS OBJECTIONABLE TERMINOLOGY--NOTABLY THE REFERENCE TO "REACTIONARY HENCHMEN OF US IMPERIALISM" AND APPEAL "TO STRUGGLE PERSISTENTLY AGAINST US NEO-COLONIALISM." DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CORRECT IN NOTING THAT NO SUCH PROPAGANDISTIC LANGUAGE APPEARS IN VIENTIANE AGREEMENT OR PROTOCOL, SO PHENG NORINDR'S RATIONALE, CITED REFTTEL D, IS NOT REALLY GERMANE. AT SAME TIME, PHRASES WHICH DEPARTMENT QUOTES HAVE BEEN IN TEXT OF 18-POINT PROGRAM EVER SINCE IT WAS FIRST FORULMATED BY JNPC IN MAY 1974 (REF E).

5. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, A CAREFUL COMPARISON OF THE FINAL TEXT WITH EARLIER VERSIONS INDICATES THAT IN TWO INSTANCES SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO US AND THAILAND HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN REMOVED. ONLY OTHER CHANGE IN TEXT IS TO BE FOUND IN POINT FOUR OF DOMESTIC POLICIES SECTION, RELATING TO ELECTIONS OF COUNCILS AT PROVINCE LEVEL AND BELOW. (WE ARE SENDING FINAL VERSION OF 18-POINT PROGRAM BY AIRGRAM.)

6. COMMENT: WE TOO REGRET RETENTION OF MORE VITUPERATIVE REFERENCES TO "US IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM" AFTER LONG CONSIDERATION OF TEXT BY BOTH SIDES, AND WE SHALL FIND OCCASION TO MAKE POINT TO BOTH SIDES.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 11 FEB 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, LA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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